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FEBRUARY, 1997
VOLUME 19, NUMBER 2

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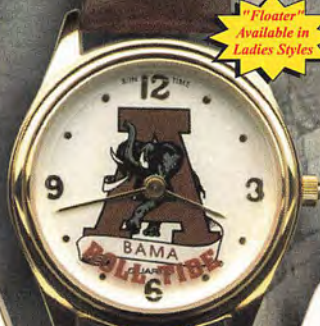
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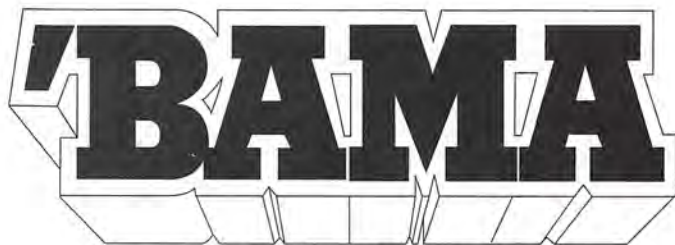
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'BAMA, Inside The Crimson Tide/FEBRUARY '97



INSIDE THE CRIMSON TIDE

FEBRUARY, 1997

VOLUME 19, NUMBER 2

On the cover: Alabama's new head football coach, Mike Dubose, has firm ideas about how he is going to bring Bama back to national championship competitiveness. See Page 6.

Barry Fikes Photo

CONTENTS



Page 9

Mike Dubose:

Putting The Components Together

6

New Alabama Head Football Coach Mike Dubose faced a busy time in his first month on the job. He had to put together a staff, marshal that staff for a good recruiting year, and plan an off-season program that will prepare the squad for spring training.

by Kirk McNair

Bob Bockrath Busy:

Facilities, Schedules Get Attention

9

Athletics Director Bob Bockrath has a full plate as he oversees the Crimson Tide program. The expansion of Bryant-Denny Stadium is moving well, a visible sign of Bama progress.

by Kirk McNair



Page 12

The Staff:

Familiarity Should Breed Success

12

New Alabama Head Coach Mike Dubose went after some familiar names to fill the three positions he had available on his football coaching staff.

by Kirk McNair

Baseball Outlook:

Wells' Team Has Tough Act To Follow

16

Head Coach Jim Wells doesn't mind looking back on the most successful baseball season in Crimson Tide history, but he's also looking ahead to a very good 1997.

by John Barnes



Page 16

Tennis Outlook:

Tide Rates To Be Competitive

20

Although the Tide women were surprised to have a new coach to start the tennis season, both the men and women have reasons to be excited about this spring.

by Eunice Elliott

Outdoor Track & Field Outlook:

Tide Aims For Championship Meets

22

The Alabama men's track and field team has a possible national champion in the javelin and good distance and middle distance runners. The Bama women, who may be a year away from real success, will rely on the sprinters.

by Donald F. Staffo

Football Recruiting

It Looks Like A Very Good Year

24

Alabama's football staff has secured commitments from some of the top high school football seniors in the Southeast. This is a critical recruiting year, and it appears Mike Dubose and his assistants are going to make it a good one.

by Kirk McNair



Page 20

The Departments

1997 Football Schedule

8

Scorecard

26

1996-97 Winter Sports Results

28

1997 Spring Sports Schedules

29

Mike Dubose:

Putting The Components Together

by Kirk McNair

Recruiting is top priority, but Bama's new head coach has other items on full agenda

New Alabama Head Football Coach Mike Dubose appears comfortable in his position since taking over for Gene Stallings on January 2. He has already demonstrated a firmness in his staff decisions (see Page 12) and recruiting appears to be going well (see Page 24). "It's been hectic, but it's been fun," he said of his first few weeks on the job. Then he added, "Of

course, we haven't started keeping score yet."

Score-keeping begins in the fall, but what is accomplished between now and that first kickoff goes a long way in determining success in games.

Dubose has always had a reputation for being extremely organized, a trait that is paying off for him now as he has to budget

his time. "Each day I understand the title and the job a little better," he said. "Each day in that chair I have a little greater appreciation for what Coach Stallings accomplished."

While the public has been focused on the future members of the Alabama football team, Dubose has spent time with his returning players. He held his first team meet-



Mike Dubose earned his reputation as an outstanding assistant coach. Now he's in charge of the entire Alabama football operation. Based on early returns as the Tide has put its football staff together and worked towards a big recruiting year, Dubose is getting the job done. He'll put his team on the football field for spring training beginning March 17.

University of Alabama Photo

ing the night before the start of classes for the spring semester. While he said that was a meeting to discuss academics, a little time was also spent on getting ready for spring training. Dubose confirmed that he told the players, "If you like the way you look now, you'd better take a picture of yourself. You're not going to look like you look now when spring training begins."

That was in reference to the off-season program, which got under way shortly after that meeting. While Dubose was unsuccessful in luring former Alabama Strength Coach Al Miller back from the National Football League (Miller elected to follow Coach Dan Reeves from the New York Giants to the Atlanta Falcons), that doesn't mean off-season work isn't progressing. Terry Jones, who has been an assistant strength coach working primarily with sports other than football, has taken over the football off-season program of running and weight-lifting.

"He's doing an outstanding job," Dubose said. "Participation and intensity have been good. I'm pleased with what is being accomplished. This is a time when we have to develop quickness and strength and mental toughness." Jones is considered a leading candidate for the position, which was created when Dubose elected not to retain LeBaron Carruthers. Because the position oversees all sports, not just football, Athletics Director Bob Bockrath will make the final decision on the new strength and conditioning coach.

And Dubose's staff is taking care of things on the academics front, too. A story making the rounds among the players is of one of their teammates missing a class on the first day. While the player thought he had a reasonable excuse for his absence, it earned him extra running time.

Dubose has already made plans for spring training. The Tide will begin its work on Monday, March 17, and conclude with "some sort of game" at Bryant-Denny Stadium on April 19. A team is allowed 15 practices in the spring, 10 in full gear, five in helmets and shoulder pads. (The NCAA considered eliminating the use of shoulder pads on those five practices this year, but coaches and trainers have lobbied for the use of shoulder pads as a prevention against injuries.) The Tide players will again have an interruption in practice as The University has its spring break from March 29 through April 6.

Dubose said that A-Day "might not be a full 60-minute game with the squad split into two teams, but it will be a chance for the fans to see us in action and for me to see how the team reacts in front of a crowd."

There was no A-Day Game last year because Bryant-Denny Stadium's turf had been removed in order to repair a drainage problem.

Because there was no A-Day Game last year, Alabama elected to move its Fan Day



Freddie Kitchens

from early August to the spring. Dubose said a similar event would be held in conjunction with A-Day this year. "We will have the final details soon, but it's something that our fans enjoy, and they seemed to enjoy it better in April than in August when it's so hot."

Because a team is limited by NCAA rules to four hours of work in any one day (and the autograph/photograph session will count as part of those four hours) both the Fan Day and game activities will probably be shortened.

Dubose said he expected the team to be physically at full strength when spring practice begins. The big question concerns quarterback Freddie Kitchens.

Kitchens underwent arthroscopic knee surgery January 14 and began rehabilitation the next day. Dr. Les Fowler performed the operation to repair a torn lateral meniscus, an injury suffered in pre-season practice when offensive tackle Pete DiMario fell on Kitchens. Fowler said Kitchens should be back to normal by early February.

Kitchens, who has fought the battle of the bulge throughout his career, admitted "I'm out of shape right now. But I think this will make it where I'll be in the best shape of my life."

The knee injury wasn't the only problem Kitchens had in 1996. He also suffered with a hip injury, turf toe, a jammed finger on his throwing hand, and two cracked ribs.

"I was a little surprised he was able to perform as well as he did through as many games as he did without any problems," Fowler said. Assistant Head Coach Woody

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McCorvey, who coached Kitchens last year, said, "It was on a day-to-day basis" after the pre-season knee injury. "After a while, the doctors thought he was able to move and have a range of motion better than when he first injured it. They thought he could get through the season."

There has been much speculation about position moves for Alabama this spring. While the spring is a time for experimentation, there may not be as much as many expect.

"We may move Steven Harris back to linebacker (from defensive end)," Dubose said. "Steve Stanley has already moved there. There's no question with our losses at linebacker that the position is a priority, a position where players have an opportunity to show us they can do the job. We've got

Paul Pickett back in the middle and Tito Smith has a good bit of experience and Chris Edwards and Eddie Hunter have some experience."

He said there might be some movement of linemen from the defensive side to offense. But, he said, he would generally follow the Stallings' philosophy on moving players. "I may go to some players and recommend a move, but I believe a player will work much harder at the position he wants to play than at a position he doesn't want to play."

There has been speculation that back-up quarterback Warren Foust, who saw only limited work at that spot, might be moved to safety, where he would have an opportunity to start. It has also been rumored that running back Curtis Alexander might move to flanker, a thought likely fueled by Alexander's impressive 63-yard touchdown

play against Auburn. "I don't think we'll move a running back," Dubose said.

Dubose said, "Our goal in the spring is to make sure we've got the right people at the right places, that we put in as much of our offense, defense and kicking game as we can, and that we develop mental and physical toughness."

Dubose will be able to start spring training with a large number of lettermen. A total of 78 players earned letters last fall with 29 of them seniors.

The 1996 seniors Dubose will not have are place-kicker Jon Brock, linebacker Tyrell Buckner, wide receiver Michael Cassady, center John Causey, snapper Jackson Cook, linebacker Rance Crutchfield, linebacker Fernando Davis, offensive tackle Pete DiMario, defensive end Anthony Dowdell, linebacker Lamont Floyd, tight end Patrick Hape, strong safety Kevin Jackson, fullback Billy Leland, snapper Chester Lewis, defensive end Kelvin Moore, offensive guard Jeremy Pennington, defensive tackle Ozell Powell, strong safety Jeremy Pruitt, cornerback Marlon Reyes, safety Cedric Samuel, linebacker Chris Seibert, linebacker Ralph Staten, punter Hayden Stockton, linebacker John Tanks, kickoff man William Watts, wide receiver Marcell West, offensive guard Laron White, fullback Jeff Whitten, and Darrell Blackburn, the defensive end who was unable to play his senior year. One junior letterman, linebacker Dwayne Rudd, is a 30th player who will not return.

Returning lettermen are running back Curtis Alexander, running back Shaun Alexander, wide receiver Tim Bowens, cornerback Fernando Bryant, wide receiver Shamari Buchanan, defensive tackle Jamie Carter, strong safety Travis Crim, place-kicker Brian Cunningham, linebacker Chris Edwards, cornerback Mike Feagin, quarterback Warren Foust, offensive guard Will Friend, wide receiver Chad Goss, defensive end Reggie Grimes, wide receiver Calvin Hall, defensive end Steven Harris, cornerback Thomas Hill, offensive tackle Joel Holliday, defensive end Chris Hood, offensive tackle Chris Jordan, defensive tackle Eric Kerley, quarterback Freddie Kitchens, running back Montoya Madden, offensive tackle Jason McDonald, offensive guard Brenon Meadows, offensive guard Michael Moore, defensive tackle Michael Myers, defensive tackle Heath Panks, quarterback John David Phillips, middle linebacker Paul Pickett, center Michael Ray, running back Dennis Riddle, tight end Rod Rutledge, offensive tackle Chris Samuels, fullback Ed Scissum, strong safety Andre Short, safety Kelvin Sigler, linebacker Tito Smith, fullback Travis Smith, offensive tackle Safe Spree, safety Steven Stanley, cornerback Deshea Townsend, quarterback Lance Tucker, wide receiver Michael Vaughn, tight end Clint Waggoner, linebacker Granison Wagstaff, defensive end Ed Walker, and cornerback Owen Winston.

1997 Alabama Football Schedule

Although one date is subject to change, apparently there will be no changes in the opponents on Alabama's 1997 football schedule. There had been a concern that Houston wanted to get out of its scheduled August 30 game against Alabama in Birmingham, but Tide Athletics Director Bob Bockrath said the Cougars will be Bama's season-opening opponent this year. It is likely that the future schedule showing Houston as a 1999 opponent will change. It goes without saying that Alabama would have been in a difficult situation to find a quality opponent for this season if Houston had not stayed on the schedule. Although sources cite several reasons for Houston exploring the idea of not playing Bama, it is financially advantageous for the Cougars to play the game. Alabama has guaranteed Houston a \$500,000 payday for the game. Additionally, a buy-out clause in the contract would have cost Houston \$25,000.

Houston is one of four 1996 bowl teams on the Bama schedule. The others are Southeastern Conference opponents Tennessee, LSU and Auburn.

It is likely that one 1997 date will be changed. While the schedule shows Alabama's game against Vanderbilt in Nashville on Saturday, September 13, that game will likely be moved back to Thursday, September 11 for broadcast by the sports cable network ESPN. Although the Southeastern Conference is involved in negotiations on that telecast, as the home team it is Vanderbilt's decision, and the Commodores will almost certainly take a national television game. Such a move would be advantageous to Alabama. The Crimson Tide has an open date prior to the Vanderbilt game, so there is plenty of time for preparation for the contest. And by playing on Thursday, Bama will have an extra couple of days to be ready for a September 20 game against Arkansas.

Alabama also has an open date before playing Tennessee, which will be played on the Third Saturday in October this year, October 18.

Exact times will be announced later.

Date	Opponent	Site
August 30	Houston	Birmingham
September 11 or 13	Vanderbilt	Nashville
September 20	Arkansas	Tuscaloosa
September 27	Southern Miss	Birmingham
October 4	Kentucky	Lexington
October 18	Tennessee	Birmingham
October 25	Ole Miss	Oxford
November 1	Louisiana Tech (Homecoming)	Tuscaloosa
November 8	LSU	Tuscaloosa
November 15	Mississippi State	Tuscaloosa
November 22	Auburn	Auburn
Southeastern Conference Championship Game		
December 6	TBA	Atlanta

Facilities, Schedules Get Attention

by Kirk McNair

Stadium expansion ahead of schedule; to open in 1998

Bob Bockrath, Alabama's athletics director, has plenty on his plate. However, one item remaining to be finished doesn't have as much to do with his hectic schedule as it does that of new Head Football Coach Mike Dubose, who has had recruiting as top priority since assuming duties January 2. Dubose has yet to sign a contract. However, Bockrath said, "When we get it done, it will be a five-year contract."

The most visible sign of activity is Alabama athletics facilities, notably work under way to add an upper deck on the East side of Bryant-Denny Stadium. Bockrath said the contract calls for the stadium addition to be completed in the summer of 1998, but that work has progressed rapidly and the projected completion date is now expected to be in the spring of 1998.

The addition of 11,752 seats will bring capacity of Bryant-Denny Stadium to approximately 82,000 when the expansion is completed. Much of the interest in the expansion is on the sky boxes. There will be a total of 81 sky boxes: 18 with 24 seats and 63 with 16 seats, totaling 1,440 seats. All 18 of the larger sky boxes and 18 of the smaller ones will be on the lower level. The upper level will have 45 16-seat sky boxes. All of the sky boxes will be state of the art, and include a private rest room.

On the first level beneath the lower sky boxes will be an area of 176 designated handicap seats (plus 176 seats for accompanying persons). On each end of the handicap areas will be seating for 360.

The addition will include an upper level with 9,600 seats, including 52 seats for handicapped and an additional 52 seats for accompanying attendants.

Four elevators will service the sky boxes and handicap areas.

A scholarship room and an A-Club Room will be available for various events, including a meeting area for former Alabama players on game days. The

room will be utilized year-round by The University for various functions.

Marketing details for the additional seats and sky boxes will be announced later.

The expansion of the stadium will increase pressure to move all Alabama home games to Tuscaloosa. However, The University is currently honoring a contract with the City of Birmingham to play three home games (including the Tennessee and Auburn games when Bama is the home



Bob Bockrath

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team) per year in Birmingham's Legion Field. That contract extends into early in the next decade, but there have been numerous examples cited of the City of Birmingham violating the terms of the contract.

"Between now and 1998, things could change," Bockrath said. "Scheduling is now on a shorter time frame than in the past when you were 10 or so years out. That's partly because of new conference configurations, partly because of television."

He said that for now, Bama policy on games in Tuscaloosa is "As many as we can."

Bockrath is working on future schedules. Among others, he is negotiating for a future contract with Penn State that's "looking better." Bockrath has heard what a wonderful series that was. Bama and Penn State played 10 regular season games, 1981-90, nine of them selected for national television.

"We're negotiating with some teams our fans will be pleased with," he said. "Obviously, Alabama fans would like to have teams like Notre Dame and Southern Cal on the schedule."

Meanwhile, the "name" teams on future Tide schedules are BYU in 1998 and UCLA in 2000 and 2001. Southern Miss, East Carolina, Louisiana Tech and Central Florida are other non-conference teams already scheduled over the next four years after 1997.

Another visible sign of activity around the athletics department is the new metal fence that has been erected in the outfield of Sewell-Thomas Baseball Stadium.

Bockrath has hired an architectural firm that specializes in athletics facilities to examine current facilities and make recommendations. The firm will create both five-year and 10-year master plans. "I think that's pretty exciting, and so do our coaches, because it will give us a blue print to work with as we plan to renovate and add facilities," Bockrath said. The plan will include diverse areas, from such things as a women's softball stadium to lockerrooms for existing sports and even football parking.

Bockrath also said that Alabama would once again bid to be an NCAA Regional site for this year's baseball championships. Last year the Tide hosted a regional that was successful from every standpoint (including Alabama winning the event to make it to the College World Series). A team must qualify for a regional in order to serve as host.



Work is ahead of schedule on an addition to Bryant-Denny Stadium. It is estimated the new upper deck will be in place by spring of 1998. The addition, which will include 81 sky boxes, will raise capacity at Bryant-Denny to approximately 82,000. The increased capacity probably moves closer the time when all Crimson Tide home football games are played in Tuscaloosa.

Barry Fikes Photo

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INSIDE THE CRIMSON TIDE

Familiarity Should Breed Success

by Kirk McNair

Dubose brings in new assistant coaches who have been a part of winning at Alabama

Familiarity may breed contempt among some, but those who have become familiar with football success through their association with

Alabama are welcome in the Crimson Tide fold. That is part of the reason Mike Dubose has been greeted so warmly as new Bama head football coach and proba-

bly why he made only a few changes in a successful coaching staff. Additionally, to fill the gaps in the staff, Dubose didn't hesitate to go after men with a Bama background.

Dubose added three men to his coaching staff, two of whom had previously coached with the Crimson Tide, one who had played at Bama. Additionally, all have experience as coordinators and two are former college head coaches.

Former Alabama assistants brought back are Bruce Arians as quarterbacks coach and offensive coordinator and Ellis Johnson as defensive line coach and defensive coordinator. Former Tide player Neil Callaway was brought on board to coach the offensive line.

The new lineup of coaches under Dubose has Arians heading up the offense with Woody McCorvey serving as assistant head coach and wide receivers coach; Callaway the offensive line; Ivy Williams running backs; and Dabo Swinney tight ends.

On defense Johnson will be the coordinator and defensive line coach with Jeff Rouzie continuing as linebackers coach and Curley Hallman continuing as secondary coach.

Danny Pearman, who formerly coached offensive tackles, will handle special teams and also serve as an assistant on the defensive side.

Under NCAA rules, a team is limited to a head coach and nine assistant coaches. Only the coaches may recruit and/or serve as recruiting coordinator. For the past few years, Randy Ross has been listed as an assistant coach in order that he could be the recruiting coordinator. Dubose did not designate any of his assistant coaches as recruiting coordinator (and is not required to make that designation), but did announce that Ross would serve as director of football operations.

Bama's three vacancies were made possible by the elevation of Ross, the retirement of Head Coach Gene Stallings and elevation of Dubose from assistant to head coach, and the retirement of Jimmy



After serving under Paul Bryant at Alabama as a relatively young coach, Bruce Arians has gone on to be a head coach and an offensive coordinator and has worked in both college and in the National Football League. He will coach quarterbacks and serve as offensive coordinator in his second stint at Alabama.

Barry Fikes Photo

Fuller, who had coached on the offensive line for the past 14 years.

Dubose was unusually frank in an informal meeting with reporters regarding his selections. He said he had only one person in mind to take his place on the defensive staff, Ellis Johnson, and only one in mind to handle the offensive line, Neil Callaway. However, he said he had four names he considered for offensive coordinator and quarterbacks coach. He said he first approached Tennessee's David Cutcliffe (an Alabama alumnus). "When that didn't work out," Dubose said, "Bruce was my next choice." He said he also had former Alabama players Mike Riley, who recently moved from offensive coordinator at Southern Cal to head coach at Oregon State, and Mike Shula, offensive coordinator and quarterbacks coach at Tampa Bay, on his list.

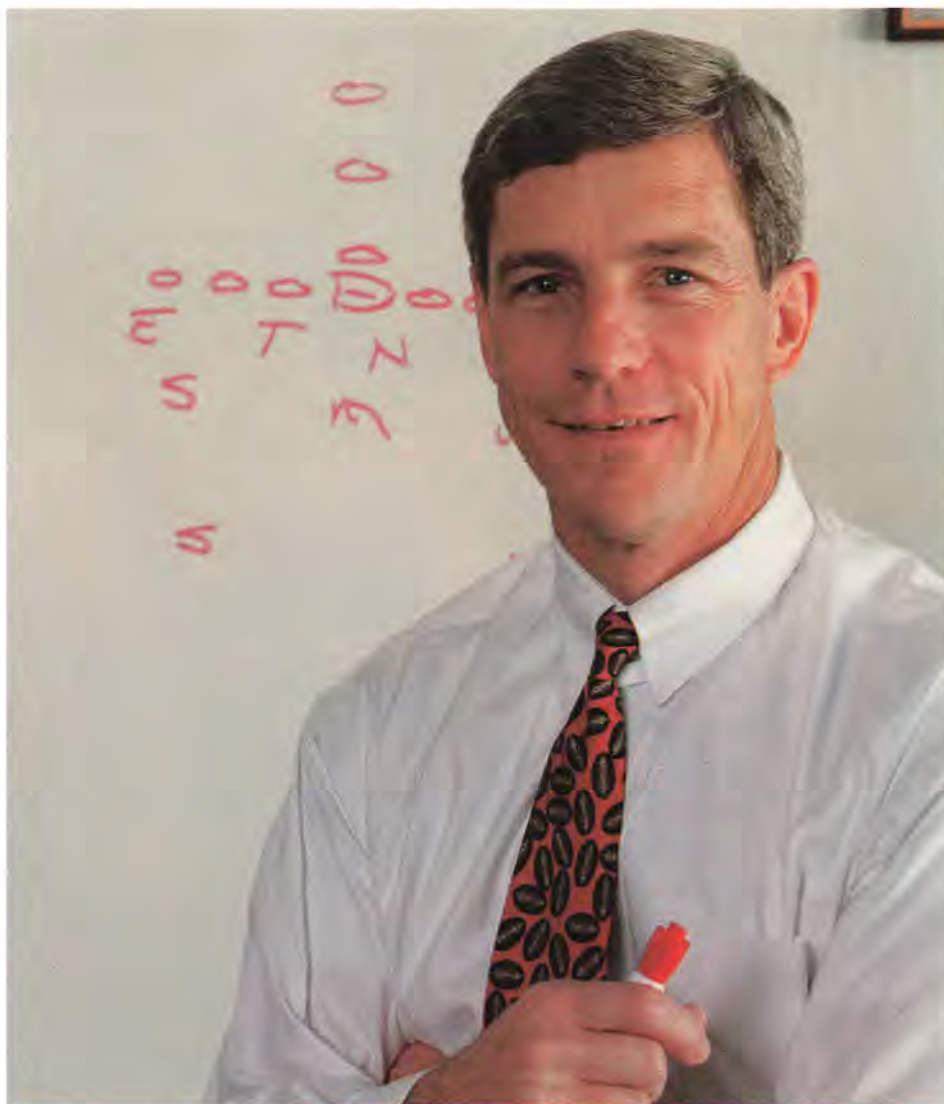
"I am certainly happy that the staff is now in place," Dubose said. "I feel we have a top-flight staff that will work extremely hard to compete for the Southeastern Conference and national championships year-in and year-out."

The addition of the three says something about the draw of Alabama, but also something about Dubose. All three new coaches had job security and wouldn't have joined the Bama staff without a belief that Dubose will be successful.

Of the three new coaches, there is no question that most interest fell on who would be offensive coordinator and quarterbacks coach. The mindset of so many Alabama fans, fueled in great part by talk radio conversation, is to "open up" the offense, and, frankly, Bruce Arians is not exactly what those fans had expected from Dubose. Indeed, those who had been around Alabama football 15 years ago when Arians first coached at Bama under Paul Bryant, were somewhat taken aback by negative comments about Arians. Those Bama cohorts from 1981-82, remember Arians as an exceptional coach and football strategist.

And Arians certainly didn't make any "West Coast offense" or such promises. He said he would be flexible, but that the flexibility would be based on personnel. "My philosophy is really simple," Arians said. "You play to your strengths. The system we will install will be a very flexible system. If the strength of our team appears to be the quarterbacks and wide receivers, then we'll throw. You always start with your quarterback and try to build around his strengths. They you look at your offensive line.

"It's easy to say you're going to come out and spread it out and do this and do that in the passing game, but if you don't



Ellis Johnson has coached defenses that have ranked among the nation's best, including being a part of the Crimson Tide coaching staff that won the 1992 national championship. He returns to Bama from having been defensive coordinator at Clemson. Barry Fikes Photo

have a quarterback and an offensive line, then all that will get you is interceptions and sacks."

Arians added, "You can't be one-dimensional at this level. We will run and throw. Florida doesn't live by the pass alone. They're always in the top three or four rushing teams in the SEC."

Arians said he had been asked what offense he would run. "I said we're going to run Alabama's offense," Arians said. "It's our offense, not my offense. I left my ego behind a long time ago. I know the backs here are good. I know the receivers are good. I think we have enough athletic linemen, and Neil will do a great job with those guys. I'm anxious to look at the quarterbacks, although I know a little about them from recruiting most of them (when he was an assistant coach at Mississippi State)."

Arians came to Alabama from the New Orleans Saints of the National Football League, where he served as quarterbacks coach the last half of the season. The Saints are making a head coaching change this year and Arians anticipated a job change. He had expected that move to be to another NFL team, and was pleased when the Alabama offer came.

"I wanted to coach somewhere where we had a chance to win," he said, and added, "I enjoy working with this age level, especially quarterbacks. I enjoy seeing them develop."

Arians, 44, was a four-year letterman at quarterback for Virginia Tech (where he was also a member of the national leadership honorary, ODK), graduating in 1974. He was his team's most valuable player as a senior.

He spent two years as a graduate assis-



Neil Callaway spent a dozen years in the enemy camp, developing All-SEC offensive linemen at Auburn. The former Alabama player (and teammate and roommate of Mike Dubose) has an impressive background in college coaching. Barry Fikes Photo

tant for the Hokies before being named a full-time assistant by Jimmy Sharpe (who had gone from being an assistant at Alabama to head coach at Virginia Tech) in 1977. He was receivers and running backs coach at Mississippi State for the next three seasons before Paul Bryant called and offered him the position of running backs coach at Alabama. He coached on Bryant's last two Alabama teams, squads that went 17-6-1 and won an SEC title.

Arians became head coach at Temple in 1983. Although he was dismissed at the end of the 1988 season, his tenure there was the most successful of any coach in modern Temple football history. He worked in the NFL at Kansas City for four years before going to Mississippi State, where he was quarterbacks coach and offensive coordinator, 1993-95.

Arians is married to the former Chris Allen and they have two children, son Jake (a kicker at UAB) and daughter Kristi.

Ellis Johnson brings a number of things to Alabama, including a 1992 national championship ring. Johnson was a member of the Bama coaching staff from 1990-93, tutoring outside linebackers when the Tide was primarily a 3-4 defensive unit. After his departure, Alabama changed to a 4-3 team with only one linebackers coach (Rouzie). In both schemes, Alabama has consistently ranked among the nation's best defensive teams, and neither Dubose nor Johnson anticipates a change in that success.

Johnson left Bama to coach linebackers at Clemson. He also coached the defen-

sive line and in 1996 served as defensive coordinator. During his tenure Clemson was ranked among the nation's top teams in scoring defense, passing defensive and rushing defense. The Tigers ranked among the nation's top ten defensive teams in 1995, but got off to a bad start in 1996 before finishing strong. Clemson lost to LSU, 10-7, in the Peach Bowl, and Johnson resigned his post a couple of days later to accept the Alabama job.

"I enjoyed my stay at Clemson," he said, "but I am flattered to be coming back to Alabama. From a defensive standpoint, Alabama is the number one defensive coaching position in America."

In many respects, Johnson's earlier tenure at Alabama is remembered less for what he did on the football field than the horror that struck him personally. Following the 1992 national championship season, Johnson was diagnosed with cancer. He underwent chemotherapy, which occasionally meant taking time off from practice. However, he said the cancer is now in remission.

"I wish I could see into the future," Johnson said. "If I could, I wouldn't have had to sell two houses, one in Tuscaloosa, and now one in Clemson."

Johnson, 45, was a three-year letterman at The Citadel and following his graduation in 1975 served as a graduate assistant coach there.

From The Citadel he went to Gaffney (South Carolina) High School as defensive coordinator, moved up to Spartanburg in that same capacity in 1979 and became head coach at Spartanburg in 1980, a position he held until returning to The Citadel as linebackers coach in 1982.

In 1983 he was named head coach at Gardner-Webb. That NAIA team was ranked number one in its district.

He later coached at Appalachian State and East Carolina, serving as linebackers coach, defensive coordinator and recruiting coordinator. In 1988 he was hired by Curley Hallman to be defensive coordinator at Southern Miss, and coached the Golden Eagles until joining Stallings at Alabama in 1990.

It's reasonable to assume that Dubose knew what kind of man he was getting in Neil Callaway. They were Crimson Tide teammates and were roommates for one year, Dubose's senior season and Callaway's sophomore year at Alabama.

Callaway's appointment was no surprise in part because many expected him to join the Alabama staff a year earlier than he did. When Stallings had an opening in 1995, many speculated that he would select Callaway. That speculation was fueled by Callaway occasionally being spotted

around The University, but that was because his wife, Karen, is a native of Tuscaloosa. (They are parents of Clay, Kate and Russ.)

Callaway's resignation at the University of Houston to come to Alabama was announced long before his appointment was made public. Following Houston's Liberty Bowl game, Callaway went from Memphis to Tuscaloosa. "I am excited to be able to come back to Alabama," Callaway said. "I have known Mike for a long time. There is no place like Alabama, and I look forward to getting to work."

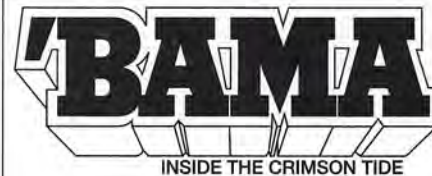
Callaway, a 1978 Alabama graduate, had been at Houston four years. In addition to being the offensive line coach he was assistant head coach and offensive coordinator. In his four years at Houston, the Cougars' offensive line allowed an average of only 19.5 sacks per season, including only 10 (on nearly 400 pass plays) in 1996. Houston won Conference USA's first championship last season with a 7-5 record.

Many believe that Callaway has long had his eye on coaching at his alma mater, and his playing career is a testimony to his tenacity for achievement. A native of Macon, Georgia, he was a three-year letterman for Bryant (1975-77), despite injuries that would have ended the

careers of many players. He was expected to be a starting offensive tackle in 1974, but missed the entire season when he suffered a broken leg in pre-season practice. In 1975 he was a defensive tackle, backing up Dubose. In 1976 he moved to linebacker, but suffered a broken jaw, which kept him out for another season. In 1977 he moved into a starting job at offensive tackle on a team that went 11-1 and just missed winning the national championship.

Following his senior season, Callaway went to East Carolina with Pat Dye, who had departed Bama to become head coach for the Pirates. He served as a graduate assistant for one year, then left with Dye for Wyoming, where he served two years as offensive line coach. In 1981 he went with Dye to Auburn, where he was coach of a strong offensive line for 12 years. When Dye was replaced at Auburn, Callaway first accepted a job under Hallman at LSU, but at the end of spring training he accepted Houston's offer to coach quarterbacks.

During his tenure at Auburn, Callaway tutored three first team All-America picks and 14 All-SEC selections. He had two first team All-Southwest Conference offensive linemen at Houston, one a first round NFL draft choice.



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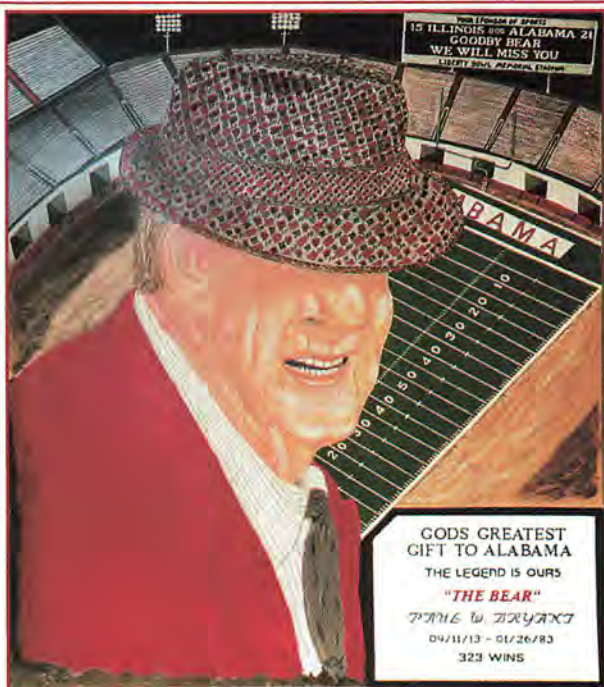
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Baseball Outlook:

Wells' Team Has Tough Act To Follow

by John Barnes

As is usually the case, pitching is key for Bama

Most coaches, regardless of the sport, try to avoid discussing the past. Jim Wells, however, relishes it. Entering his third season as Alabama's head baseball coach, Wells recalls the Tide's 1996 campaign with pride and a tremendous sense of accomplishment. Why not? It was a season Tide supporters won't soon forget.

- A 50-win season.
- Shattered attendance records.
- A Southeastern Conference championship.

• A trip to the College World Series.
What could be better? "Winning it all," said Wells.

Wells sees absolutely no problem with discussing last season. "It's not something we dwell on," he said. "It was a great group who went out and accomplished a goal they had set for themselves very early on. Reaching the College World Series is our goal every year. Some years, it may be a little more realistic than others, but it gives the kids something to shoot for. You look at last season and we had some great leaders on that team, guys like Dax Norris and Chris Moller. They had their minds made up that they were going to Omaha and it kept the other guys more focused."

Indeed, it was a talented, veteran team. Posting a 50-19 record, good for the most wins in school history, Bama continued to astound, winning seven of its last nine SEC games en route to the conference regular-season and tournament championships. By season's end, the Tide was ranked number one in the country and headed into Omaha as the number one seed in the College World Series. Although stiffer competition ultimately doomed the Tide, few would

Joe Caruso elected to pass up professional baseball and return to Alabama for his senior season. The second baseman was selected for numerous honors last year and could end his career with the Bama record for base hits.

Barry Fikes Photo



Although there has been much talk of the players lost from last year's excellent Alabama baseball team, the Crimson Tide has solid, experienced players on the 1997 edition, including (left to right) outfielder David Tidwell, infielder Nate Duncan and outfielder Dustan Mohr. Barry Fikes Photo

argue that it was the most successful season in school history. Although Alabama's 1983 squad finished second at the CWS, as opposed to the 1996 team's tie for fifth, there is little doubt that Wells' group will go down as the standard bearer for all future Tide teams.

"I'm sure that, for many years to come, we'll be compared to that team," said Wells. "I guess that can be good or bad, depending on how you look at it. It raises expectations, but also gives us something to strive for. There was such a tremendous amount of desire on their part and that's a rare thing."

On paper, it appears that Wells' 1997 squad will be hard-pressed to match the accomplishments of last year's team. Hit hard by graduation and the draft, Bama will field a young, inexperienced team. As the sports adage goes, however, games aren't played on paper. Wells refuses to concede that his 1997 bunch will struggle. "We've got a good nucleus of experienced position players coming back," he said. "I feel like we'll be a pretty good hitting team, but pitching is a big question mark. We've only got a couple guys with any conference experience. How far we can bring the inexperienced guys along will determine how competitive we are this year."

Wells' ability to take untested players and turn them into all-conference performers is well-documented. This season, however, may prove to be Wells' biggest challenge yet.

Gone are All-SEC performers Dax Norris and Chris Moller, Bama's unofficial captains and team motivators. Shortstop Brett Taft and pitchers Joel Colgrove and Tim Young have all finished their eligibility and moved on to careers in professional baseball.

What hurts is the large number of juniors who chose to forego their final year of eligibility and enter the draft. Pitchers Skip Ames and Byron Tribe, outfielder/pitcher Corey Spiers and outfielder Doug Hall have all signed pro contracts. The lone exception is second baseman Joe Caruso. Drafted in the 19th round by the Oakland Athletics, Caruso has chosen to stay, much to Wells' delight.

"Joe coming back is a big plus," said Wells. "He is the most experienced in the group of returning position players."

The 1996 Golden Spikes Award nominee will anchor the Tide defense at second base. Hitting .367 with a team-leading 14 home runs and 63 runs batted in, Caruso was named Most Valuable Player at the SEC Tournament. In addition, he was named to the South Regional NCAA All-Tournament Team and third-team All-America. Caruso currently ranks fourth among Alabama's career leaders in hits with 211, leaving him just 57 short of the record 268 held by David Magadan. After pounding out 102 hits in 1996, Caruso seems destined to finish his career as the Tide's all-time leader.

Joining Caruso is a good mix of experienced position players and some talented

newcomers.

At first base, 1996 part-time starter Robbie Tucker (.288, 1 HR, 10 RBI) is the starter headed into the spring. Appearing in 44 games last season, Tucker has the task of replacing Chris Moller. Junior transfer David Mote and junior outfielder Dustan Mohr will provide depth at the position.

Senior Nate Duncan (.241, 2 HR, 21 RBI) moves to shortstop from third where he started 54 games in 1996. Regarded as the most improved hitter on the Tide team last year, Duncan will be called upon for his glove this season. Senior Heath Davis, who hit .333 in limited duty last season, will provide back-up help at both middle infield positions.

At third base, Sophomore Andy Phillips (.238, 3 HR, 13 RBI) appears to have the edge on true freshman Dan Chavers. Both, however, should get considerable playing time. Look for Chavers to see some time at shortstop as well.

Behind the plate, newcomer Matt Frick, a junior transfer, emerged from fall practice as the starter. Locked in battle for the number two spot at catcher are junior transfer Matt Greer and true freshman Jayson Cox.

"We've got a chance to have a pretty solid infield," said Wells. "You really can't replace guys like Norris, Moller and Taft, but we've got some guys with experience."

In the outfield, Bama will return a veteran group. Senior David Tidwell and juniors Dustan Mohr and Drew Bounds, all starters

in 1996, will see the majority of playing time.

In left field, Bounds (.316, 1HR, 27 RBI) had an excellent fall and should be the starter.

Center field presents a more clouded picture. Tidwell (.310, 5 HR, 30 RBI) has the speed and agility coaches look for in a center fielder. However, junior transfer Roberto Vaz brings power to the position. Named the Most Valuable Player at the Junior College World Series where he hit .565 with four homers in four games, Vaz had an outstanding fall at the plate and possesses an excellent arm. Both should see time in center, with Tidwell also backing up in left.

In right field, Mohr is cemented as the starter. In 1996, the All-SEC performer hit .306 with 10 homers and 55 RBI. He was also selected to the SEC All-Tournament Team. Junior transfer Mark Peer will see time as Mohr's back-up.

In addition, senior Brandon Watson had a good fall at the plate and is penciled in as the Tide's designated hitter.

The fortunes of this Tide team may rest on the shoulders of a very young, inexperienced pitching staff. Bama re-

turns only three pitchers with game experience.

Anchoring the staff will be senior Andy Bernard. Posting a 6-3 record with a 2.65 earned run average last year, Bernard notched two complete-game victories in the post season, one against Florida in the SEC Tournament and another against Stetson in the South Regional, where he took a perfect game into the seventh inning. Bernard will no doubt serve as the Tide's number one conference hurler.

Sophomore Manny Torres (5-1, 4.40 ERA) has perhaps the strongest arm on the team. In 57 innings of work, Torres struck out 61, but also gave up 58 hits, a number that realistically needs to be cut in half if he is to be effective.

The biggest question mark on the Tide staff would have to be senior Chris Eilers (5-5, 4.73 ERA). Beset with injuries last season, the three-year letterman is looking to bounce back from off-season shoulder surgery. Although Eilers has yet to regain the velocity necessary to be effective, Wells is hopeful he can come back and join the conference rotation.

The remainder of the Tide staff is comprised of newcomers, junior college trans-

fers and redshirt freshmen. Right-handers Pete Fisher and Heath Henderson, both transfers, appear to have a leg up on the remainder of the staff for the coveted weekend rotation.

Other hurlers who should see middle-of-the-week duty include Michael Daniel, Jarrod Kingery, Tripp Baldwin and Matt Bernard.

As of now, Wells has yet to settle on a closer. Roberto Vaz is a candidate, solely on the strength of his arm, but it remains to be seen who will get the nod.

Alabama's 1997 schedule features 36 home dates including non-conference foes Michigan, Illinois and South Alabama. SEC home dates include Georgia, Vanderbilt, Kentucky, Arkansas and LSU, who will make their first trip to Tuscaloosa since 1994.

The Tide will forego its traditional early-season trip to the state of Florida and play 19 straight home games to open the season, which begins February 14 against Marshall.

A few new improvements are in store for fans entering Sewell-Thomas Stadium, including construction of a 10-foot wall in the outfield and a state-of-the-art sound system.

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Tide Rates To Be Competitive

by Eunice Elliott

Both men's and women's teams have national rankings and high hopes for 1997

The University of Alabama's tradition of success is not limited to the football field. Several of The University's teams are regarded as powerhouses in the world of collegiate athletics.

The men's and women's tennis teams are no exception as they approach the spring season with optimism and enthusiasm. Both the coaches and the players realize this will be a year full of high expectations as both teams look forward to the return of last year's talented freshmen.

The Tide's women's team welcomes back

last year's heralded freshman, Baili Camino, who finished the season at number 33 in the Intercollegiate Tennis Association rankings, becoming the highest ranked freshman in the history of the program.

"Last season was pretty good," Camino said. "We were a young team last year and I think we'll do better this season because we have more experience."

If last year is any indication, this year should be a successful one for the Tide as sophomores Jill Breslin and Amanda Ballinger join last year's Most Valuable

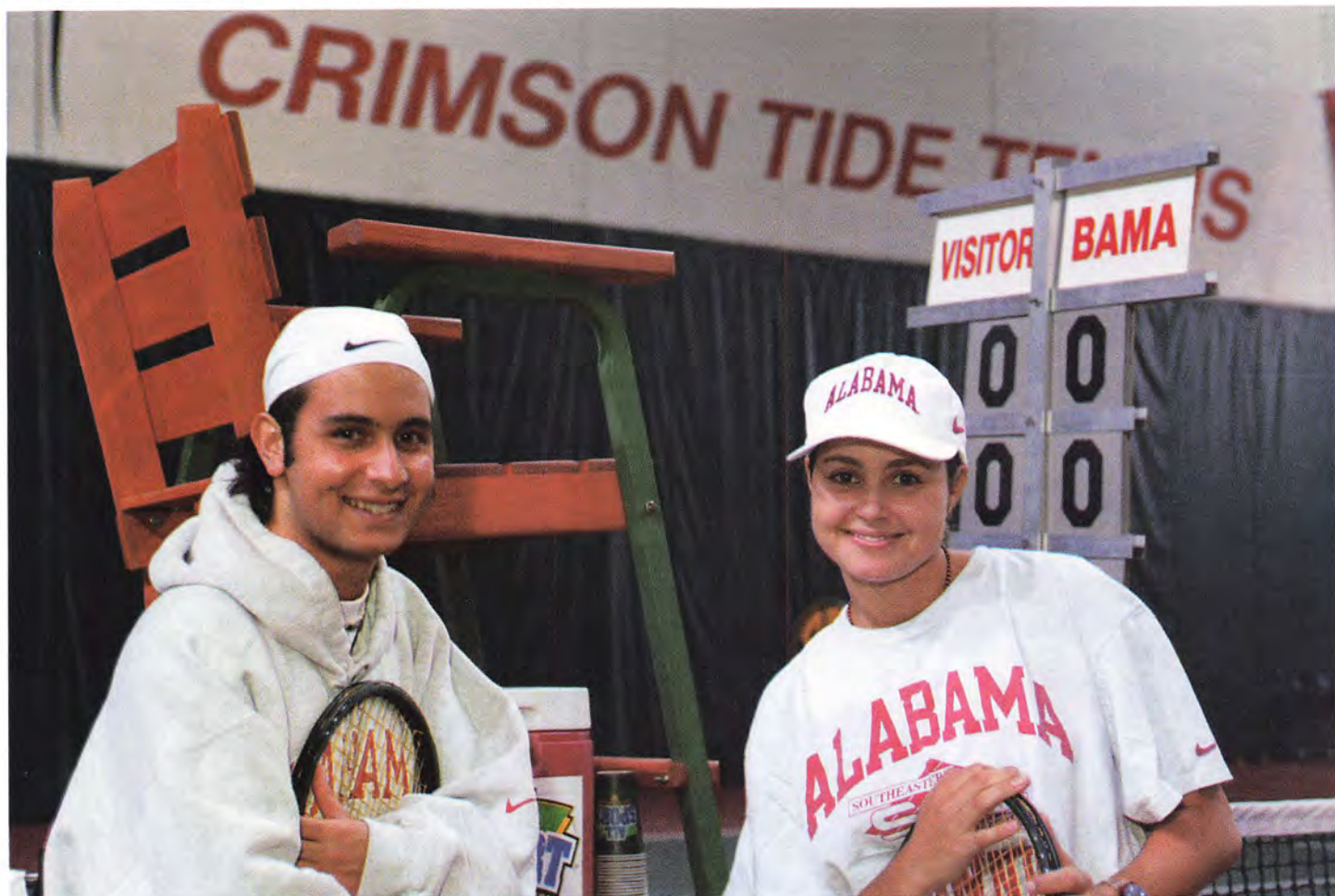
Player, Camino, in Alabama's 1997 spring campaign.

Seniors Allison Eager and Cantillon Brasington look forward to ending their college careers on a high note.

"I hope that I can be a leader for others by my experience," Brasington said. "I think this year is going to be a really, really good year."

Eager echoed many of Brasington's sentiments.

"I'm really pumped up this year," Eager said. "I'm going to go out and have as much



Led by Rashid Hassam (left) the Alabama men's team finished fall competition ranked 28th in the nation. Baili Camino was rated 33rd in the nation last year as a freshman and she should star for the Bama women this year.

Barry Fikes Photo

Women's Tennis Coach Jim Tressler Resigns As Season Begins

Just as the 1997 season was to begin, it was announced that after three highly-successful years as head coach of the Alabama women's tennis team, Jim Tressler was resigning to accept a position with Nike, Inc.

Former Crimson Tide player and current assistant coach Michelle Morton was named to serve as interim head coach for the remainder of the season.

"We enjoyed the opportunity we had at Alabama and appreciate all the support The University and the community gave us while we were here," Tressler said. He also said he was grateful to former Alabama Athletics Director Hootie Ingram and former Associate Athletics Director Don Gambriel for the opportunity to be a head coach.

Tressler led Alabama to a program-high rating of 10th in the Intercollegiate Tennis Association rankings. Each of his three squads finished the season in the top 35 with the 1995 squad finishing at number 20.

fun as I can and play the best that I can. I definitely want to end my career here on a good note."

The Tide is also looking forward to seeing two new players in action. Junior college transfer Tania Fabiani and freshman Dominique Glinzler join this year's squad. Fabiani played for Carola Frank at Central Alabama and was 1995 Player of the Year. Glinzler, a native of South Africa, played Continental Cup for South Africa in 1995 and earned high honors in both tennis and academics.

Interim Head Coach, Michelle Morton is especially looking forward to the spring.

"We're still young, but we have a very talented team," Morton said. "They are very excited about getting started this season and proving that they are worthy to be in the NCAA Regionals and go beyond that."

Morton has been with the tennis program for a decade, first as a player then a graduate assistant coach, and now, since the resignation of Jim Tressler, interim head coach.

"It's every coach's dream to coach at the school you attended," Morton said. "We'll miss Jim a lot, but his influence will still be felt on the team."

On the men's side, the kings of the courts are ready for action as they see the return of Karim Zaher and Alin Taranga, the 1996 Southeastern Conference Coaches' Indoor B Flight Doubles Champions. Senior Rashid Hassan also found success on the court with Taranga. The two made the Rolex Collegiate national doubles rankings last March and ended the season with a record of 22-9.

In his third season with the Tide, Coach Joey Rivé sees the return of five players from the 1996 squad, including junior Chris Lopez, sophomore Ariel Rivero, freshmen Mason Snider and Greg Thompson and newcomer Francisco Rodriguez. The Tide also adds a new assistant coach, Geoff Young, who joins the Tide after a successful playing career at Northwestern.

In the Fall Rolex Collegiate Rankings, the Crimson Tide was ranked 28th in the nation. Alabama also has one ranked singles player

in Hassan who is at 43.

Rivé spent most of the year recruiting. The result was a mix of several players from the international recruiting pool.

"Right now with the talent pool that's out there, you can't recruit heavy on the Americans and compete against the SEC," Rivé said. "You have to bring in some international guys. Their level of competition is so much higher right now than the American level of competition that you feel your hand

Under Tressler's tutelage, three Crimson Tide players earned All-Southeastern Conference recognition, including Hilde Otterman, who earned that distinction twice in doubles and once in singles. Tressler coached Otterman to the highest individual ranking an Alabama woman has achieved when she was rated number 20 during the 1995 season. Marouschka van Dijk earned All-SEC doubles accolades twice during her career, while last season Baili Camino earned All-SEC in singles.

Additionally, Tressler's 1995 team earned the athletic department's academic award given to the squad with the highest cumulative grade point average. During his tenure, 11 Bama players earned Academic All-SEC recognition.

Before being named Alabama's head coach prior to the 1994 season, Tressler spent three seasons as an assistant at Florida and the Gators won three SEC championships and the 1992 national championship in his tenure.

is forced to dip into that international pool at times."

Regardless of where he found this year's newcomers, Rivé and the team look forward to another successful season that will see them in NCAA post-season play, something Tide teams accomplished in 1989, 1990, 1993, and 1996.

"I feel like we should always be in post-season play. My expectations are always high," Rivé said.

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Tide Aims For Championship Meets

by Donald F. Staffo

Men strong in distance events, while sprints are strength for young women

Returning All-America Mats Nilsson and a talented group of middle distance and distance runners will form the core of the Alabama men's outdoor track and field team, while the strength of the Crimson Tide's women's team should be in the sprints. The women's team, though, may be a year or so away from making a mark in the Southeastern Conference.

The men finished seventh outdoors in the Southeastern Conference last year and 15th in the nation. "That shows you the strength of our conference, and we're cer-

tainly expecting to move up significantly this year," said Head Coach Doug Williamson, who has recorded eight top five finishes nationally in his 11 years at the helm of both teams. "The SEC is by far the most competitive conference in the country. If you're competitive in the SEC meet, then you have a chance in the national championship meet. If you're in the top three in the SEC, you certainly have an excellent chance in the national meet."

Nilsson, a sophomore javelin thrower from Sweden, is the Tide's only individual defending SEC champion. Last season Nilsson, as a freshman, finished second in the nation. The top returning javelin thrower in the country, Nilsson's best throw a year ago was 251-6.

"Mats is a superb student who has an outstanding work ethic," said Williamson. "I'd gladly take a whole team like this guy. He sets a wonderful example in terms of what kind of attitude he brings to practice each day and how he competes."

Nilsson's older brother, Joakim, was a four-time All-America for the Tide. He finished third in the country in the javelin.

Williamson said the middle distance and distance runners, paced by a one-two punch of Faizal Emamaullee and Tim Broe, both cross country All-Americans, could be a strong group. Emamaullee, who was fifth in the SEC in the 10,000 meter run, sixth in the 5,000 meter run and 18th in the nation in cross country is, according to Williamson, "a proven entity." Broe, a red-shirt freshman in track, will run the 5,000 and compete in the steeplechase. "We fully expect that Broe will be able to place in two events," said Williamson. The two lead a unit that was runner-up in cross country in the SEC, came in third in the district and 13th in the NCAA Cross Country Championship Meet in Tucson, Arizona.

The women have only a few returning point makers from a team that finished seventh in the SEC last year. Hilary Stiefelmeyer, Tania Archer, Darriea Pigott



Among the top returning performers for Coach Doug Williamson's Alabama track and field teams are (left to right) distance runner Faizal Emamaullee, sprinter Hilary Stiefelmeyer, discus thrower Elizabeth Aldrich and javelin thrower Mats Nilsson.

Barry Fikes Photo

"We're very young and untested," said Williamson. "We're also going to redshirt some of our key people so that we can be a more effective team in the future. We'll be a lot better in 1998 than we'll be in 1997."

Here is a look at some of the men who will form the nucleus of the Crimson Tide's 1997 outdoor track and field squad:

Middle distance and distance: Besides Emamaullee and Broe, others in this area include seniors Sam Barall (third in SEC in 3,000 steeplechase), Brian Hesson (sixth in SEC steeplechase) and Nick Middleton (fifth in the conference in the indoor mile, eighth in 800). "Our top five middle distance and distance people are already point-scorers in the SEC and maybe can score at the national level," said Williamson. "We have a fairly large number of people who can score points here, the others possibly being John Williamson (3,000 steeplechase), Dean Fulmer (5,000) and Jody Spangler and Preston Hill (both 10,000). This is the strength of our team." And, yes, John Williamson is the son of Coach Williamson.

Sprints: David Bergdahl and Ken Fambro are the best of the hurdlers. Bergdahl was fourth in the SEC in the 400 hurdles as a sophomore "and Ken can run stride-for-stride with David," Williamson said. "So we have two very strong entries in the 400 hurdles. Both also run the 110 hurdles and I believe both are capable of scoring in that event as well," Williamson added. "Jasmin Alverson and Eric Gethers are freshmen hurdlers who show some promise.

"We have some other young sprinters (Virgil Summers and Jeremy Henderson) who haven't been tested yet, but could help us in the relays," said Williamson. "When we combine all of those sprinters, we're going to have 4x100 and 4x400 relay teams that are capable of scoring points."

Field events: In addition to Nilsson, another SEC point-scorer is senior hammer thrower Derek Diefendorf (8th in conference). Williamson said potential point scorers include Derrick Jones (hammer throw and discus), Lee Goodloe (decathlon), Ryan Hunter (decathlon), Chris

Trawick (high jump) and Eric Hindy (hammer throw).

"We're excited because our men are very young and have got the makings of a very fine team," Williamson said.

Here is a look at some of the women who will form the nucleus of the Crimson Tide's 1997 outdoor track and field squad:

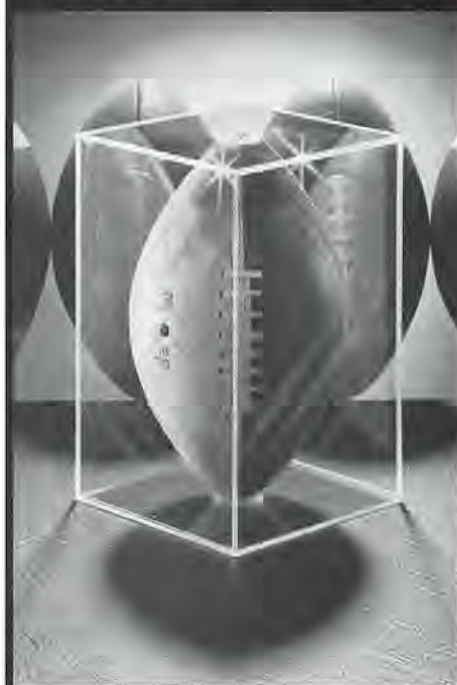
Sprints: Williamson feels he has a fine supporting cast to back up Stiefelmeyer, Archer, Pigott and Turner. They are Keish Grant, Kenyetta Grigsby, Deondra Parker, Robin Freeman, Tabitha White and Jessica Karnowski. "They are a very talented group of freshmen who should allow us to have some strong relay teams," said Williamson. "Together they give us a pretty strong sprint group. This is definitely the strength of our women's team. I really believe that there is enough talent there for us to be a factor in the sprint relays, and I also see us as capable of getting our sprint relay teams to the NCAA meet."

Middle distance and distance: A key loss here was Donna Cargill, last year's SEC 800-meter champion who also placed fourth in the 1500. Besides losing Cargill, an injury will sideline Caroline Kerr for the season. Kerr, fifth in the conference in both the 800- and 1500-meter runs, will be redshirted. "That's eight points right there that we are redshirting," said Williamson. "But when she comes back next year, she'll be better than fifth in both of those events," Williamson said. Desiree Ficker could score in the 800- and 1,500-meter runs and that he may have other potential scorers in Joanne Bolton (10,000), Carrie Garrison (sixth last year in the 10,000, though she may also redshirt this season) and Elizabeth Lopacki and Martha Hoelzer, both entered in the 1,500.

Field Events: The top returning Tider in this area is Elizabeth Aldrich, a sophomore who was sixth in the SEC in the discus last year. "We believe she can also score in the hammer throw," said Williamson, who also said that newcomer Mona Jonsson "should be one of the better javelin throwers in the conference. So we're looking for some points there." Williamson also said that multi-event participant Allison Maddox is capable of scoring in the high jump and definitely can score in the seven-event heptathlon.

Williamson points out that the track and field season runs from January 11 through June 7 (the Tide is in indoor competition through March 8). "It's a long season and we have a lot of competitions," he said. "So our philosophy is to focus on our most important competitions. For us, that's the outdoor SEC Championship meet and the NCAA Championship meet. Everything else is really preparation for peak performances in those competitions."

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It Looks Like A Very Good Year

by Kirk McNair

Bama loading up on top senior football prospects

As the February 5 signing day approaches, it appears Alabama has had an exceptional football recruiting effort. Coaches everywhere will say you have to wait a few years to know for sure, but when the rankings of schools' signing classes are made, they will be based on which schools got the most players that major football powers wanted. Alabama will fare very well in that respect. Another criteria of success is how a school does in fillings its recruiting needs.

Although it was believed Alabama would have only 24 scholarships this February, owing to the so-called "Bojo affair," Bama took its one scholarship penalty on last year's class, when Bama came up one short on signees because of two players (tight end Gorman Thornton and defensive tackle Kenny Smith) being academically ineligible. So will Alabama sign 25 on February 5? Perhaps not. Guarding against the chance of one or more signees not being academically eligible this year, the Tide may go a scholarship or two above the 25 limit. There is no rule against signing more than 25 and several Southeastern Conference schools have taken that chance over the years. The limit of 25 involves only the number that can be awarded scholarships and brought onto campus for pre-season football practice in August.

As of 10 days to go before signing day, Alabama was within a handful of the 25 limit on players who had committed to sign with the Crimson Tide. While it's true that a commitment is not binding, those almost always hold up. The critical factor in the ranking for this recruiting class would be in how the staff of Coach Mike Dubose closed. There were no drop-downs on the final list of prospects for the few remaining spots, but the margin for error did not appear to be great.

As is frequently the case in recruiting, there was a time a couple of weeks before signing date when it looked as if this might be the year Alabama did not have enough scholarships for all those who wanted to be

a part of the Crimson Tide. Indeed, there were reports of Alabama having to tell outstanding prospects there were no scholarships available for them. Two such prospects even went public with stories that they had been told prior to making official visits to the Alabama campus that Bama would not have scholarships for them. They were the Player of the Year in Tennessee, linebacker Austin Kemp of Brentwood Academy, and a center regarded as among the nation's best, Kyle Young of Central, South Carolina.

The best way to look at Alabama's recruiting class is probably on a position-by-position basis, guessing at

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what Bama wanted against what appears to be likely on signing day.

The Tide appears to have missed out at quarterback. Bama is believed to have wanted to sign one quarterback. Very early in the recruiting period the top prospect in Alabama, Jason Standridge, committed to Auburn (as expected since his parents are Auburn alumni) and then late in January the top prospect in Mississippi, Romaro Miller of Shannon, who had narrowed his choices to Ole Miss and Bama selected the Rebels. There was street talk that Bama might yet snare a quarterback, but it wouldn't be in the signing period. Bobby Sabelhaus, a 6-6, 235-pound quarterback from Maryland who signed with Florida two years ago, then left the Gators, has been in junior college. He could join Alabama in August, but he cannot sign another national letter-of-intent.

Alabama has done very well at running back, where the Tide wanted up to three. The three who committed are all excellent: Shaun Bohanon, 6-2, 190, of Oak Ridge, Tennessee; Adam Cox, 6-1, 210, of Jasper Walker; and Antoneyo Williams, 6-1, 200, of Tuscaloosa Central.

It is believed Bama wanted to sign one or two tight ends. As many as three of Alabama's commitments are considered tight end possibilities, but one of those commitments is not expected to be eligible and, possibly, not signed. Marlon Davis, 6-7, 235, of Dodge County High School in Eastman, Georgia, was announced as committing to Alabama, but reports said he was probably junior college bound. Two early commitments as defensive linemen, Shaun Draper, 6-4, 265, of Huntsville Butler, and Kyle Yount, 6-4, 255, of Albertville, are also listed as tight end possibilities. Additionally, Kyle Kipps, 6-5, 245, of Lafayette (Louisiana) Comeaux was being reported as still deciding between Bama and LSU.

Alabama was expected to get one or two wide receivers. Jason McAddley, 6-2, 180 (and reportedly a 4.4 speedster) of Oak Ridge was announced as a commitment, and there were also unconfirmed reports Bama would land Quincey Jackson, 6-1, 190, of Brundidge by way of East Mississippi Junior College in Scooba.

It was perhaps a bit of a surprise that the Tide went after a kicker, but Bama did receive a commitment from the 6A all-state place-kicker from Florida, A.J. Diaz of Springs High School in Miami. He is also an excellent punter.

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Defensive back prospects were in high demand, and Alabama was able to get commitments from two true cornerbacks, Kecal Bailey, 5-10, 175, of Tuscaloosa Central, and Chris Reier, 5-9, 175, of Jacksonville (Florida) Bolles, and three safeties, Tony Dixon, 6-1, 195, of Reform Pickens County; Chris Horne, 6-1, 205, of Washington County High School in Sandersville, Georgia; and Wayne Thomas, 5-11, 190, of Dothan.

Linebacker was another area of priority and the Tide had commitments from three and was rumored to be leading for a fourth. Committing to Bama were Travis Carroll, 6-4, 225, of Jacksonville Bolles; Carlton Person, 6-2, 240, of North Jackson High School in Stevenson; and Chris Wheeler, 6-1, 215, of Sylacauga B.B. Comer. Additionally, Alabama was thought to be the leader for prep All-America Jamal Reynolds, 6-4, 225, of Aiken, South Carolina, who visited Bama late in January and was then expected to decide between the Tide, Florida and Florida State.

With few exceptions, a recruiting class is judged by the quality of its linemen. Alabama has quality commitments from linemen, a few of whom may have been generally listed as likely to play on one side of the ball, but who might end up on the other side. It is believed Alabama wanted to finish with at least eight linemen, but as of late in the recruiting season this was the area where Bama had to have a good finish.

Only five had been committed: Michael Barfield, 6-4, 265, Dothan Northview (expected to be offense); Will Cutberth, 6-6, 330, Central High School of Fort Pierce, Florida (offense); Sam Matthews, 6-6, 265, Jacksonville Bolles (defense); Larry Paul, 6-3, 245, Moody (defense); and Carlos Stennis, 6-2, 286, Meridian, Mississippi (offense).

Three Mississippians, including two of Stennis's teammates, two Alabamians, and one player from Georgia were still considering Alabama late in the recruiting period.

From Meridian, Kenyatta Walker, 6-6, 275 (offense), and Kenny Smith, 6-4, 285 (defense) were both thought to be deciding between Bama and Florida, with Walker leaning to the Gators, Smith to the Crimson Tide. Also in Mississippi, a player many con-

sider to be the top offensive line prospect in the nation, Terrence Metcalf, 6-4, 288, of Clarksdale, was thought to be down to Bama and Ole Miss.

Tennessee was believed to be the top competition for two outstanding Alabama prep linemen, both projected as defensive players. Fred Weary (who earned many honors as an offensive lineman), 6-2, 250 of Montgomery Lee, and Kenny Smith, 6-7, 265 of North Jackson in Stevenson, were the late-deciding in-state prospects. Smith was signed by Alabama in 1996 after a tumultuous recruiting battle.

After spending the past few months getting his academics situation in order, he was expected to routinely re-sign with Bama this year, but elected to take official visits elsewhere and was questionable for the Tide.

Although there was a report that Shaun Williams, a 6-5, 260-pound lineman from Augusta (Georgia) Josey had committed to Bama, Williams still had at least one official visit to take (to South Carolina) before deciding, and was expected to pick between the Tide and the Gamecocks.

New Signees From Near And Far

It is reasonably safe to say that Head Swimming Coach Chuck Horton has produced a first for Alabama athletics. A new member of the Crimson Tide women's swimming team is the first athlete recruited to The University from mainland China.

Wei-Yue Nora Zhong of Gaungshou in the Chinese province of Guangdong entered Alabama in January. She will have three years of eligibility.



Wei-Yue Nora Zhong

Although she is expected to be a particular force in butterfly competition, Zhong is also proficient in freestyle. Her best time in the 100-meter butterfly is :59.18, her best mark in the 50-meter freestyle is :25.6, and her top 100-meter freestyle time :55.85.

She was 1996 World Cup Short Course champion in both the 50- and 100-meter butterfly events. She has also won gold medals in the World High School Student Sports Meet. Outside of sports, she was named one of the Ten Best Youth in her province, an award presented for all-around achievement.

In China, she competed for the Er Sha Sports Center club team under Coach Ling-Ling Wu. Last year she trained with the China National Team.

Her father is a doctor and her mother is a basketball coach. Nora, who has had two years of English study, is majoring in accounting.

Golf Coach Dick Spybey has signed two players from the Alabama high school ranks to join the Crimson Tide next year. Freeman Fite and Wes Vance signed with Alabama during the early signing period.

"Once again we are pleased to announce the signing of two of the top players from our state," Spybey said. "We have been very fortunate the last four or five years in securing the top players from the state. Both young men meet our team criteria in that both are wonderful student-athletes. Both excelled in the classroom as well as on the American Junior Golf Association Tour. Freeman won an AJGA event this summer and became an All-America on their tour while Wes had a second place finish."

Fite in the 1995 and 1996 ACC Junior Golf Champion. He is a senior at The Donoho School in Anniston.

Vance is a senior at Gadsden High School. He helped his team win the 1996 sectional at Coosa Valley Country Club and won the 1996 Etowah County area high school tournament. He finished second at the 1994 state tournament.

Both plan to major in business.

The late signing period for non-fall sports, including basketball, begins April 9.

BAMA SCORECARD

Job Hunting

Like a number of recent Alabama graduates, Darrell Blackburn is now job hunting. Blackburn, expected to be an all-star candidate in his senior season as a Crimson Tide defensive end, had to forego his final year of football because of a degenerating kidney.

On January 8, Blackburn underwent successful surgery to receive a kidney from his mother. The surgery was performed by Dr. Arnold G. Diethelm at UAB Hospital in Birmingham. Dr. Diethelm performed the first kidney transplant in Alabama in 1968 and he is chief of the transplant program at UAB. UAB has led the nation in kidney transplants for the past seven years. In 1995, the most recent year for which figures are available, the hospital performed 301 such transplants.

Blackburn, who earned his degree in criminal justice in December, was discharged from the hospital on January 15, a week after the surgery, but is still living in a hospital apartment while he continues to recuperate. It was expected that he would leave that apartment and move into his own apartment in Birmingham about February 1.

Hank Black, a spokesman for UAB, said "Darrell is experiencing no problems and no complications. The fact that he was in great physical condition and the fact that he has a positive attitude have been beneficial to the success of the surgery." He said that statistics show a 95 per cent success rate at the end of one year for a recipient of a kidney from a close donor, although that over time the percentage of recipients having a functioning kidney decreases, to about 70 per cent at the end of 10 years.

Blackburn and his mother have become advocates for organ donation. Some 900 people in Alabama with no suitable related donor are currently on the waiting list for a kidney donation. Information on the organ donor program in Alabama is available by calling the Alabama Organ Center, 1-800-252-3677.

Rudd Going Early

When Dwayne Rudd snared an errant Michigan pass and took off on what would be an 88-yard touchdown run and the decisive play in Alabama's 17-14 Outback Bowl victory, one couldn't help but believe that play would be shown again in April, when the National Football League has its draft. Rudd, who had been projected as a likely first round draft choice this year even before the start of his junior season last fall, made it official in early January when he announced he would forego his senior season to go into the NFL draft.

In addition to being named the Most Valuable Player in the Outback Bowl, Rudd was named Defensive Player of the Year in the Southeastern Conference.

Tide Head Coach Mike Dubose said Rudd would be a top ten pick in the draft and that he supported the decision of the linebacker. "All I asked him to do was to come back and

get his degree," Dubose said. "Football is going to end sometime." Rudd said that he was close to being on schedule for his degree and would return to get it.

The good news for Alabama is that defensive tackle Michael Myers, who had also contemplated entering the draft this year, elected to return for his senior season.

Football Awards

Alabama held its annual football awards banquet in early January. Unlike a number of sports, Bama traditionally has only a few awards. For instance, there is no Most Valuable Player or anything like that.

At this year's banquet, the last for Gene Stallings and the first for Mike Dubose as Alabama head coach, there were presentations to the 29 seniors and to captains John Causey and Fernando Davis. There is one subjective award, presented by the Jefferson County Alumni Association. The Pat Trammell Award, named for the former quarterback who went on to become a doctor and then died at a tragically young age of cancer, is presented to a player who overcomes great odds and shows leadership and scholarship qualities. Causey, who returned from a serious knee injury, was presented that award.

Sophomore Warren Foust was presented the President's Award for Academic Achievement. Seventeen Crimson Tide players received All-Southeastern Conference Academic Awards.

Citations were also presented to those who won various awards (such as television player of the game or All-SEC) during the year.

And More Football Awards

Jimmy Hyams, sports columnist for the Knoxville (Tennessee) News-Sentinel, writes a column on the SEC. Recently he comprised a number of special awards in the conference this year. He named Florida's Steve Spurrier coach of the year, with LSU's Gerry DiNardo runner-up. "The choice," Hyams wrote, "Gene Stallings at Alabama. Any coach who can win nine games with Freddie Kitchens at quarterback has done a good job." Bama, of course, won 10 games, but Hyams made his decisions prior to the bowl games.

In other categories, Hyams named Bama running back Dennis Riddle the league's most underrated player, linebacker Dwayne Rudd the SEC's second best defensive player (behind Vanderbilt's Jamie Duncan), and the Alabama hiring of Mike Dubose as the second best decision made in the conference. (Best decision: Kentucky firing Bill Curry.)

Hyams also listed a handful of the league's most promising freshmen, including Tide running back Shaun Alexander.

Bama was also on the wrong end of a couple of Hyams' observations. He called the best two coached games of the year those of Florida and Mississippi State, both against Alabama. And he said the best game by an individual in 1996 was that of Florida quar-

terback Danny Wuerffel against the Tide in the SEC Championship Game.

Washington Gets Record

At the 12:00 mark of the first half against Florida in Gainesville on January 18, Alabama basketball star Eric Washington swished a three-pointer. While it was only one of six Washington would make that night, it was historic in that it was the 226th of his career, a new Alabama record. The previous mark had been 225 by James "Hollywood" Robinson, set from 1991-93. Later this season Washington is almost certain to surpass Robinson's mark of 606 three-point attempts.

Washington is one of 19 Division I players on an additional list of candidates recently released by the Los Angeles Athletic Club as contenders for the 10-man All-America team and Player of the Year awards presented by the club. The only other Southeastern Conference player on the list was Derek Anderson of Kentucky, who later was lost for the year with a knee injury.

Tournament Tested

Alabama women's basketball star Shalonda Enis has a phenomenal history when it comes to making all-tournament teams. She's nine-for-nine in making the all-tournament team in regular season tournaments at Alabama. She even capped last season by being named to the NCAA West Regional all-tournament squad. In fact, in eight years of playing basketball—at Celeste (Texas) High School, Trinity Valley Junior College and Alabama—only once has Enis not made the all-tournament team. That was at last year's Southeastern Conference Championship Tournament (where Tider Dominique Canly was most valuable player and Brittney Ezell was selected to the team).

Enis scored her 1,000th career point for Alabama when the Tide defeated Georgia in Athens earlier this year. She became only the third junior college transfer in Alabama history to reach that plateau, and she did it in just 48 games. Scoring is not new to Enis. In two seasons at Trinity Valley she scored 1,944 points (28.2 per game) and at Celeste High School she was Player of the Year with a state record 3,326 career points.

Gymnastics Attendance

Alabama Gymnastics Coach Sarah Patterson is goal-oriented, and has been quite successful in reaching many of her goals. That's why Bama is defending national champion.

In addition to victories, Patterson has concentrated on attracting fans. The result is that last year Alabama gymnastics was second only to Utah gymnastics in all women's sports competition in average attendance. Utah averaged 9,790 per meet, Alabama 9,301. The next seven top-drawing women's sports were basketball teams.

Last year the nation's largest crowd for a gymnastics dual meet was an SEC record

13,573, when Georgia came to Tuscaloosa. The Tide also hosted the NCAA Championships, and drew a record 36,573 for three days of competition. This year's Auburn meet (the first of the year in Coleman Coliseum) attracted 10,823, the largest women's gymnastics crowd in the nation this year.

However, that mark was expected to be topped in the February 1 Alabama-Georgia meet. That meet was to be taped by ESPN for delayed broadcast.

Gymnastics Rankings

Alabama's gymnastics team was ranked second in the nation in the pre-season poll. Bama then went on the road and had an impressive win over Penn State. The result: Alabama dropped to fourth. The Tide followed that up with an excellent score in a rout of Auburn. And Alabama stayed fourth.

While gymnastics (like all NCAA sports except Division 1A football) has post-season play to determine a true national champion, the rankings serve a purpose in seeding for Regional competition.

An oddity of gymnastics rankings is that the method in which those rankings are done changes four times during the season. The pre-season poll is by vote of the coaches. After the first week of the season, the rankings are switched to highest score. After the fourth week of the season the rankings go to the highest season average. When all schools have six meets under their belts, the format switches to regional scoring average.

The regional scoring average goes like this: Take a team's top two home scores, top two away scores, and next two highest scores, home or away. Then throw out the highest score and the lowest score. Add the remaining four scores together and divide by four. That is the regional scoring average.

Thank goodness for a championship meet.

Baseball Rankings

The Alabama baseball team, which was one of eight college squads to make it to the College World Series last year, is ranked 16th in the nation in the Collegiate Baseball and 19th in the Baseball America pre-season polls for 1997.

Bama is one of seven Southeastern Conference teams to make the rankings. Florida, Mississippi State, and LSU were generally ranked above Bama, Tennessee about the same, and Arkansas and Auburn behind the Tide.

FSU was number one in the Collegiate Baseball poll, which is made up of baseball coaches and sports information directors voting, while Stanford was selected number one in the Baseball America poll, which is done by the magazine's staff.

In a pre-season poll of SEC coaches, Florida was the overwhelming choice to win the league, getting nine of 12 votes. The Gators received 11 of 12 votes to repeat as SEC East champion. LSU, the defending national champion, received six votes to win the SEC West, while Mississippi State got four votes, Alabama and Auburn one each.

Head Start

Right-handed pitcher Pete Fisher, a sopho-

more from Stoneham, Massachusetts, became the first Alabama baseball player ever selected to participate in the USA Baseball National Trials. Just prior to the start of Crimson Tide baseball practice, Fisher spent three days at the New York Yankees' spring training facility, Legends Field, in Tampa, Florida. He was one of 66 college players invited to the workouts. (Bama sophomore pitcher Manny Torres was an alternate for the trials.)

USA Baseball selects and trains players for international amateur baseball competition.

Interested spectators at the three days of workouts? Scouts representing virtually every major league team.

Meet The Players

Alabama baseball fans will have an opportunity to meet the 1997 Crimson Tide players and coaches and have a hot lunch. The Alabama GrandSlammers, the baseball booster club, will have its annual preseason barbecue from 11:30 a.m. until 1:30 p.m. Saturday, February 8, at the Hank Crisp Indoor Practice Facility. The cost is \$6.50 per plate.

Players and coaches will be available for photographs and autographs.

The GrandSlammers are accepting new members. Cost is \$25 for an individual membership, \$40 for a family membership. The group meets the first Monday of each month in the President's Lounge in Coleman Coliseum. Those interested in joining should call Scott Cork in Tuscaloosa at (205) 333-9943.

Game Of The Week

Alabama's baseball team will be televised twice this year on the SportsSouth cable network. The network has the SEC Game of the Week package and will televise Bama's Saturday, April 5, game against Kentucky from Sewell-Thomas Stadium and the Tide's Saturday, April 12 game at Auburn. Both games begin at 2 p.m. central time.

Additionally, the network will televise the SEC Tournament Championship finals from Columbus, Georgia, on Sunday, May 18.

The Alabama Cable Network will air on a tape-delayed basis 11 Alabama games, 10 from Sewell-Thomas plus Bama's April 9 game against UAB from the Hoover Met. Home games which will be available on most cable systems in Alabama beginning at 10 p.m. on the day of the game are Michigan February 23, Georgia March 9, UAB March 19, Vanderbilt March 29, Kentucky April 5, Arkansas April 26 and April 27, Samford April 29 and LSU May 10 and May 11.

Baseball Tickets

For those who don't have cable, or who just prefer going to the ball park, Alabama season baseball tickets are now available. Individual season ticket packages are priced at \$90 for a reserved chairback seat (subject to availability), \$75 for an upper-level bleacher seat, and \$60 for a non-reserved bleacher seat. There are also family plans and senior citizen plans.

A single game ticket is \$5. Alabama plays 36 home games this year. Someone buying a \$90 season ticket could see each game for half price.

For a ticket order blank and complete infor-

mation call the Athletics Ticket Office in Tuscaloosa at (205) 348-6111.

New To PGA

Spike McRoy of Huntsville, an Alabama golfer from 1987-90, recently earned his PGA card through Tour Qualifying School, becoming the second former Tider of current Bama Coach Dick Spivey to make it to the tour. McRoy, who starred on the Nike and Hooter's tours before earning his card, joins his former Tide teammate Dickey Pride on the PGA Tour. Another Spivey product from Alabama, Marten Olander, is playing on the European PGA Tour.

Two other former Bama players, Steve Lowery and Lee Rinker, are active on the PGA Tour, while former Tide star Jerry Pate plays a limited number of PGA events.

Soccer Honorees

There were two Most Valuable Player awards presented at Alabama's women's soccer awards banquet. While senior goalkeeper Amy Pseja, as expected, was named Team MVP, there is also a special Coaches MVP award, and that went to Nellie Barnes. Ashley Kirkland was named offensive most valuable and Nikki Kubiszyn defensive most valuable for Coach Don Staley's squad.

The Academic All-SEC honorees were Pseja, Young, Cari Higgins, Jill Davis, Jennifer Carle, Amy Lerche, Nicole Lees, Leah Formby, Christine Miller and Nellie O'Connor.

Hall Of Fame

Former Alabama basketball star T.R. Dunn will be among those inducted into the Alabama Sports Hall of Fame at the Birmingham-Jefferson Civic Center on February 22.

Tickets, which are \$50 per person, may be obtained by calling the Alabama Sports Hall of Fame Museum in Birmingham at (205) 323-6665. A reception will begin at 5:30 p.m., followed by the banquet at 7 p.m.

Distinguished Service

Don Gambril, who retired at the end of last year as associate athletics director at Alabama, has been awarded the United States Sports Academy's Distinguished Service Award. Gambril served at The University beginning as head swimming and diving coach in 1973. His accomplishments in swimming are legendary.

The United States Sports Academy has presented the Distinguished Service Award annually since 1979. The academy, a graduate school of sport, is in Daphne. Gambril has served as a member of its faculty and consultant.

Although Gambril has officially retired from Alabama, he has become a special assistant to Athletics Director Bob Bockrath with his major task to oversee the development of two new women's sports, crew and water polo. Gambril said he hoped the sports would be operational within two years.

By staying involved in Alabama athletics Gambril also continues duties with the NCAA as chairman of the Men's and Women's Swimming Rules Committee and NCAA Representative on the U.S. Swimming Board of Directors.

1996-97 Alabama Winter Sports Results

Men's Basketball

Date	Opponent	Time
99	Marathon Oil (Exh.)	86
79	BC Sibenik Croatia (Exh.)	70
Top of the World Classic @ Fairbanks, Alaska		
58	UNC-Wilmington	51
79	Southern Illinois	58
77	Middle Tennessee State	74
93	Northeastern Illinois	50
95	Arkansas-Pine Bluff	44
70	Minnesota	67
80	@ Florida International	65
100	Western Carolina	48
72	North Texas	55
72	Virginia Commonwealth @ Birmingham	69
Cable Car Classic @ San Jose, Calif.		
59	San Jose State	60 (OT)
62	Santa Clara	77
84	@ Vanderbilt	92
59	@ Ole Miss	46
66	Syracuse (CBS)	70
68	Arkansas	72
66	@ Florida	85
60	South Carolina (JP)	62
75	LSU	66
Jan. 28	@ Auburn (ESPN)	8:30
Feb. 1	@ Mississippi State (JP)	12:00
Feb. 5	Georgia	7:00
Feb. 8	@ Tennessee (JP)	3:00
Feb. 12	Ole Miss	7:00
Feb. 15	@ LSU	7:00
Feb. 19	Kentucky (JP)	7:00
Feb. 22	Auburn (SS)	4:00
Feb. 26	@ Arkansas (JP)	7:00
March 1	Mississippi State	7:00
March 6-	SEC Tournament	
March 9	@ Memphis	

Times are central
JP-Jefferson Pilot

SS-SportsSouth

Women's Basketball

Date	Opponent	Time
116	Uralmash (Exh.)	45
Hall of Fame Classic @ Stanford, Calif.		
65	Stanford (ESPN)	74
71	Athletes In Action (Exh.)	53
San Juan Shootout, San Juan, Puerto Rico		
102	Arizona State	74
88	Puerto Rico-Mayaguez	32
81	North Carolina State	91
Sheraton Capstone Inn Classic		
62	Jackson State	37
85	Lynn	44
Holiday Beach Classic @ Conray, S.C.		
89	Akron	44
68	Penn State or Furman	47
88	North Carolina	74
Miami Holiday Classic @ Coral Gables		
70	Grambling State	67
73	Miami	43
70	Oral Roberts	65
88	Ole Miss	60
68	@ Auburn	65
72	@ Mississippi State	52
68	@ Georgia (Prime TV)	64
101	@ Oral Roberts	67
78	Kentucky @ Cincinnati	62
60	Tennessee (Prime TV)	63
Jan. 27	Jackson State	7:00
Feb. 1	@ LSU	1:00
Feb. 6	Arkansas	7:00
Feb. 9	South Carolina (SS)	4:00
Feb. 11	Auburn	4:00
Feb. 16	@ Florida (Sunshine TV)	4:00
Feb. 18	@ UNC-Charlotte	6:00
Feb. 23	Vanderbilt (ESPN2)	4:00
Feb. 28-	SEC Tournament	
March 3	@ Chattanooga	

Times are central
SS-SportsSouth

Men's Swimming & Diving

Date/	Opponent	Time/
UA		Opp.
75	@ Northeast Louisiana	34
87	Delta State @ Monroe, La.	22
129	Florida	114
105.5	@ LSU	137.5
Illinois Invitational		
112	Ball State	72
92	Southern Illinois	56
106	Missouri	60
93.5	Iowa	56.5
103	Northwestern	37
123	@ Georgia	162
113	@ North Carolina State	130
Jan. 26	@ South Carolina	11:00
Feb. 7	Auburn	6:00
Feb. 19-22	SEC Championships @ Athens	
March 7	Tennessee	4:00
March 8	Alabama Invitational	
Mar. 13-15	NCAA Zone Diving @ Auburn	
March 27-	NCAA Championships	
March 29	@ Minneapolis, Minn.	

Times are central

Gymnastics

Date	Opponent	Time
193.75	@ Penn State	190.3
195.525	Auburn	189.85
196.75	@ Florida	195.475
Feb. 1	Georgia	7:00
Feb. 7	Kentucky	7:00
Feb. 14	@ North Carolina State, New Hampshire, Kent	6:00
Feb. 28	@ Georgia	7:00
March 8	Michigan State, West Virginia, SE Missouri State	7:00
March 15	@ Auburn, Towson State	7:30
March 22	SEC Championships @ Athens, Ga.	
April 5	NCAA Regionals @ Ann Arbor, Mich.	
April 17-	NCAA Championships	
April 19	@ Gainesville, Fla.	

Times are central

Women's Swimming & Diving

Date/	Opponent	Time/
UA		Opp.
84	@ Northeast Louisiana	23
82	Delta State @ Monroe, La.	27
113	Florida	130
107	@ LSU	135
Illinois Invitational		
121	Illinois State	44
99	Southern Illinois	49
109	Missouri	59
60	Northwestern	53
52	Illinois	61
136	@ Georgia	155
177	@ North Carolina State	63
Jan. 26	@ South Carolina	11:00
Jan. 26	Arkansas @ South Carolina	
Feb. 8	Auburn	11:00
Feb. 19-22	SEC Championships @ Athens	
March 7	Tennessee	4:00
March 8	Alabama Invitational	
March 13-	NCAA Zone Diving	
March 15	@ Auburn	
March 20-	NCAA Championships	
March 22	@ Indianapolis, Ind.	

Times are central

Men's Indoor Track

Date	Event	Finish
Jan. 11	Saluki Invitational @ Carbondale, Ill.	Fourth
Jan. 18	Arkansas State Invitational @ Jonesboro, Ark.	First
Jan. 31-	Meyo Invitational @ South Bend, Ind.	
Feb. 1		
Feb. 7-8	Wildcat Classic @ Lexington	
Feb. 21-22	SEC Championships @ Ginesville, Fla.	
Feb. 28-	USATF Championships @ Atlanta	
March 1		
March 7-8	NCAA Championships @ Indianapolis, Ind.	

Women's Indoor Track

Date	Event	Finish
Jan. 11	Saluki Invitational @ Carbondale, Ill.	Seventh
Jan. 18	Arkansas State Invitational @ Jonesboro, Ark.	Second
Jan. 31-	Meyo Invitational @ South Bend, Ind.	
Feb. 1		
Feb. 7-8	Wildcat Classic @ Lexington	
Feb. 21-22	SEC Championships @ Ginesville, Fla.	
Feb. 28-	USATF Championships @ Atlanta	
March 1		
March 7-8	NCAA Championships @ Indianapolis, Ind.	

1997 Alabama Spring Sports Schedules

Baseball

Date	Opponent	Time
Feb. 14	Marshall	7 p.m.
Feb. 15	Marshall	2 p.m.
Feb. 16	Marshall	2 p.m.
Feb. 18	Louisiana Tech	7 p.m.
Feb. 19	Louisiana Tech	4 p.m.
Feb. 21	Michigan	7 p.m.
Feb. 22	Michigan	2 p.m.
Feb. 23	Michigan	1 p.m.
Feb. 25	Middle Tenn.	7 p.m.
Feb. 28	Illinois	7 p.m.
Mar. 1	Illinois	2 p.m.
Mar. 2	Illinois	12 p.m.
Mar. 4	Duquesne	7 p.m.
Mar. 5	Duquesne	7 p.m.
Mar. 7	Georgia	7 p.m.
Mar. 8	Georgia	2 p.m.
Mar. 9	Georgia	2 p.m.
Mar. 11	Winthrop	7 p.m.
Mar. 12	Winthrop	7 p.m.
Mar. 14	@ Florida	6 p.m.
Mar. 15	@ Florida	6 p.m.
Mar. 16	@ Florida	12 p.m.
Mar. 19	UAB	7 p.m.
Mar. 21	@ Tennessee	6 p.m.
Mar. 22	@ Tennessee	6 p.m.
Mar. 23	@ Tennessee	1 p.m.
Mar. 25	@ USM	6:30 p.m.
Mar. 28	Vanderbilt	7 p.m.
Mar. 29	Vanderbilt	2 p.m.
Mar. 30	Vanderbilt	2 p.m.
Apr. 1	South Alabama	7 p.m.
Apr. 2	@ Middle Tenn.	7 p.m.
Apr. 4	Kentucky	7 p.m.
Apr. 5	Kentucky (SS)	2 p.m.
Apr. 6	Kentucky	2 p.m.
Apr. 8	USM	7 p.m.
Apr. 9	UAB @ Hoover	7 p.m.
Apr. 11	@ Auburn	6 p.m.
Apr. 12	@ Auburn (SS)	1:30 p.m.
Apr. 13	@ Auburn	1:30 p.m.
Apr. 15	@ South Ala.	6:30 p.m.
Apr. 16	@ Samford	2 p.m.
Apr. 18	@ Miss. State	7 p.m.
Apr. 19	@ Miss. State	2 p.m.
Apr. 20	@ Miss. State	2 p.m.
Apr. 22	Troy State	7 p.m.
Apr. 25	Arkansas	7 p.m.
Apr. 26	Arkansas	2 p.m.
Apr. 27	Arkansas	2 p.m.
Apr. 29	Samford	7 p.m.
May 2	@ Ole Miss	7 p.m.
May 3	@ Ole Miss	2 p.m.
May 4	@ Ole Miss	2 p.m.
May 9	LSU	7 p.m.
May 10	LSU	2 p.m.
May 11	LSU	2 p.m.
May 14	SEC Tournament	
May 18	@ Columbus, Ga.	
May 22	NCAA Regionals	
May 25	@ campus sites	
May 31	College World Series	
June 7	@ Omaha	

All times central
(SS) SportsSouth cable tv

Softball

Date	Opponent	Time
Feb. 14	Texas-Arlington Tour.	
Feb. 16	@ Dallas	
Feb. 22	Louisiana Classic	
Feb. 23	@ Lafayette, La.	
Feb. 27	Delta State	3 p.m.
Mar. 4	Michigan	3 p.m.
Mar. 8	Georgia State Tourney	
Mar. 9	@ Atlanta	
(Alabama will play Troy State and Mercer March 8, LSU, Georgia State and Samford March 9)		
Mar. 14	@ Arkansas	6 p.m.
Mar. 15	@ Arkansas	1 p.m.
Mar. 18	@ Samford	4 p.m.
Mar. 21	Kentucky	5:30 p.m.
Mar. 22	Tennessee	3 p.m.
Mar. 28	Georgia Tech Tourney	
Mar. 30	@ Marietta, Ga.	
Apr. 2	Auburn	5 p.m.
Apr. 5	@ Ole Miss	1 p.m.
Apr. 6	@ Ole Miss	1 p.m.
Apr. 12	Florida	5 p.m.
Apr. 16	@ Auburn	5 p.m.
Apr. 18	Miss. State	4 p.m.
Apr. 19	@ Miss. State	11 a.m.
Apr. 26	@ So. Carolina	12 p.m.
Apr. 27	@ Georgia	1 p.m.
Apr. 30	Samford	5 p.m.
May 1	FSU	4 p.m.
May 3	@ LSU	2 p.m.
May 4	@ LSU	12 p.m.
May 10	SEC Tournament	
May 11	@ Columbus, Ga.	
May 16	NCAA Regionals	
May 18	campus sites	
May 22	College World Series	
May 26	@ Oklahoma City	

Other than tournament games and Michigan game on March 4, all games are doubleheaders. Home games played at Muny Sokol Park.

All times central

Men's Golf

Date	Event
Feb. 8	Florida Invitational
Feb. 9	@ Gainesville
Feb. 19	John Burns
Feb. 21	@ Honolulu
Feb. 28	Matlock Intercollegiate @ Lakeland, Fla.
Mar. 21	Spring Invitational
Mar. 23	@ Montgomery
Apr. 4	Carpet Capital
Apr. 6	@ Dalton, Ga.
Apr. 11	Billy Hitchcock
Apr. 13	@ Auburn
Apr. 18	SEC Championships
Apr. 20	@ Auburn
May 15	NCAA Regionals
May 17	TBA
May 28	NCAA Championships
May 31	@ Chicago

Men's Tennis

Date/	Opponent	Time/
UA		Opp.
6	Troy State	1
5	Georgia State	2
Feb. 1	USM	12 p.m.
Feb. 5	UAB	2 p.m.
Feb. 6	National Team Indoor	
Feb. 9	@ Austin, Texas	
Feb. 14	@ Fla. Atlantic	2 p.m.
Feb. 15	@ Miami	1:30 p.m.
Feb. 20	National Team Indoor	
Feb. 23	@ Louisville, Ky.	
Feb. 22	Georgia Tech	9 a.m.
Feb. 28	Miss. State	2:30 p.m.
Mar. 2	Ole Miss	1 p.m.
Mar. 5	Arkansas	2:30 p.m.
Mar. 7	@ Georgia	1:30 p.m.
Mar. 13	Blue-Grey Classic	
Mar. 16	@ Montgomery	
Mar. 19	LSU	2 p.m.
Mar. 22	Auburn	1 p.m.
Mar. 29	@ Vanderbilt	12 p.m.
Mar. 31	@ Kentucky	2:30 p.m.
Apr. 6	Tennessee	12 p.m.
Apr. 12	@ Florida	11 a.m.
Apr. 17	SEC Championships	
Apr. 20	@ Columbia, S.C.	
May 9	NCAA Regional	
May 10	TBA	
May 16	NCAA Championships	
May 25	@ Los Angeles	

All times central

Men's Outdoor Track

Date	Event
Mar. 15	@ Auburn
Mar. 20	Alabama Relays
Apr. 5	@ Clemson
Apr. 10	@ Sea Ray Relays
Apr. 12	@ Knoxville, Tenn.
Apr. 20	Crimson Classic
Apr. 25	@ Drake Relays
Apr. 25	@ Penn Relays
May 4	@ Auburn
May 15	SEC Championships
May 18	@ Auburn
May 24	@ Georgia Tech
June 4	NCAA Championships
June 7	@ Bloomington, Ind.

Women's Track

Date	Event
Mar. 15	@ Auburn
Mar. 20	Alabama Relays
Apr. 5	@ Clemson
Apr. 10	@ Sea Ray Relays
Apr. 12	@ Knoxville, Tenn.
Apr. 20	Crimson Classic
Apr. 25	@ Drake Relays
Apr. 25	@ Penn Relays
May 4	@ Auburn
May 15	SEC Championships
May 18	@ Auburn
May 24	@ Georgia Tech
June 4	NCAA Championships
June 7	@ Bloomington, Ind.

Women's Tennis

Date	Opponent	Time
Jan. 29	USM	1 p.m.
Feb. 2	@ Ga. Tech	11 a.m.
Feb. 3	Arkansas	12 p.m.
Feb. 6	Rolex Championships	
Feb. 9	@ Dallas	
Feb. 12	UAB	2 p.m.
	@ Williamsburg, Va.	
Feb. 15	Maryland	TBA
Feb. 16	William & Mary	TBA
Feb. 20	National Team Indoor	
Feb. 23	@ Madison, Wisc.	
Feb. 22	Clemson	1:30 p.m.
Mar. 1	@ Georgia	11 a.m.
Mar. 7	@ Kentucky	12 p.m.
Mar. 9	@ LSU	TBA
Mar. 12	South Carolina	2 p.m.
Mar. 15	Tennessee	TBA
Mar. 20	Indiana	2 p.m.
Mar. 21	Vanderbilt	2 p.m.
Mar. 28	Miss. State	2 p.m.
Apr. 1	@ South Fla.	1 p.m.
Apr. 3	@ Fla. Internat.	1 p.m.
Apr. 6	@ Auburn	12 p.m.
Apr. 11	@ Ole Miss	2 p.m.
Apr. 13	Florida	12 p.m.
Apr. 17	SEC Championships	
Apr. 20	@ Athens, Ga.	
TBA	NCAA Regionals	
May 16	NCAA Championships	
May 23	@ Stanford, Calif.	

All times central

Women's Golf

Date	Event
Mar. 1	Florida Lady Gator
Mar. 2	@ Gainesville
Mar. 14	LSU Fairwood
Mar. 16	@ Baton Rouge
Mar. 21	South Carolina Inv.
Mar. 23	@ Columbia
Apr. 11	Women's Southern
Apr. 13	@ Athens, Ga.
Apr. 18	SEC Championships
Apr. 20	@ Columbia, S.C.
May 8	NCAA Regional
May 10	TBA
May 21	NCAA Championships
May 24	@ Columbus, Ohio

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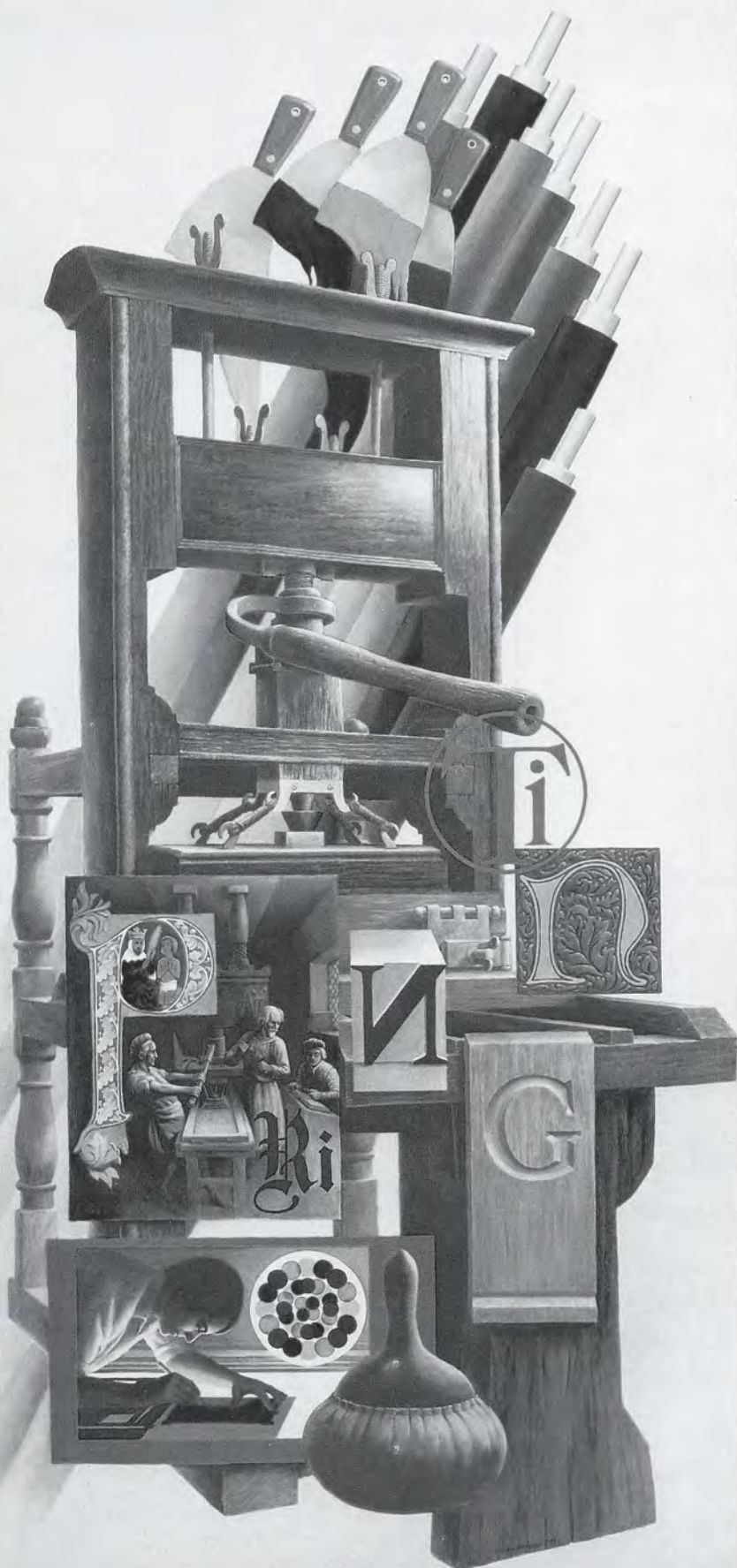
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